



## **BIBLE TRUTH 2 OVERVIEW**

### **Unit 8: The God Who Loves**

**Big Question and Answer:** "What is God's love for His people like? It's more than they could ever deserve!"

**Bible Verse:** "Give thanks to the LORD for He is good. His steadfast love endures forever." 1 Chronicles 16:34

### **Bible Truth 2 Concept: God Loved His People Before They Loved Him**

Even before God created the world, He loved His people. Even back then, He knew all about them. He knew that they would be sinners like everyone else. He knew they would all rebel against Him and deserve His punishment for their sins.

Yet even though He knew all this about them before even a single one of them was born, He loved them deeply and wanted them to be His people. He chose to set His love upon them in a special way. He chose to send His Son, Jesus, to pay for their sins. He chose that by the Holy Spirit, He would give them faith in Jesus, and through that faith, He would forgive their sins. He would give them each a new heart to love and obey Him. They would be His special people--a countless number from every language and people on earth, who would live to enjoy Him and praise His amazing love forever.

We can know God's love and be His dearly loved people, too, when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

### **Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse**

***Meditation Version: Ephesians 1:4-6***

"For He chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us to be adopted through Jesus Christ for Himself, according to His favor and will, to the praise of His glorious grace that He favored us with in the Beloved."

***Alternate Memory Version: Ephesians 1:4,5***

"For He chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us to be adopted through Jesus Christ."

### **Bible Truth 2 ACTS Prayer**

**A** God, we praise You for being the One who loves Your people long before they love You!

**C** God, we confess that we are all sinners who have rebelled against You and Your wonderful love. We do not deserve to be Your people, but if we are to be Your people, You will have to save us. We need a Savior!

**T** Thank You, God for planning to save Your people from even before they were born, even before You created the world! Nothing would stop You from making them Your people!

**S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Make us Your people, who love, obey and enjoy You now and forever.

### **Bible Truth 2 Stories**

**Lesson 1: The Case of the Long-Lived Lavish Love (Old Testament)**

*Ephesians 1; Romans 8; Genesis; Exodus; 1 Kings/ 1 Chronicles; 2 Kings/2 Chronicles; Luke; Acts; Revelation 7:9*

**Lesson 2: The Case of the Doctor Who Needed Patience (Story of the Saints)**

**Lesson 3: The Case of the Chosen Who Needed Courage (New Testament)**

*Acts 18- 20; Ephesians; Colossians 4:7-9, 1 and 2 Timothy, Revelation 2:1-7*

**1. GETTING STARTED: Welcome and Opening Songs** (*introduce unit and get kids moving with these songs*)

<p><b>Welcome</b></p>	<p>“Welcome to Praise Factory. We’re so glad you’ve joined us! Here at the PFI we are investigators. (That’s what the “I” stands for!) Investigators look for answers to questions. In PFI, we look for answers to big questions about God. We dig deep down in the truths of God’s Word to find them.”</p>
<p><b>Praise Factory Theme Song</b></p>	<p>“Let’s sing our Praise Factory Investigator’s theme song.”</p> <p><b>PFI: Praise Factory Investigators</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>PFI ESV Songs 8, Track 1</i></span></p> <p>We’re PFI: Praise Factory Investigators,          Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word,          That’s PFI: Praise Factory Investigators,          Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word,          We’re looking for answers to very big questions,          Big questions about God,          If you’re looking for answers to very big questions ‘bout God, come along,          Join PFI: Praise Factory Investigators,          Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word,          That’s PFI: Praise Factory Investigators,          Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word.          Deep down, diggin’ down, Let’s go diggin’ down,          Deep down, diggin’ down,          ‘Til answers to all our Big Questions we’ve found.          We’re PFI: Praise Factory Investigators,          Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word,          That’s PFI: Praise Factory Investigators,          Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word.</p>
<p><b>Classroom Rules Song</b></p>	<p>An important part of Praise Factory is helping us worship God and love one another. Our WoGoLOA song reminds us how we should act. Let’s sing it.”</p> <p><b>WoGoLOA Rules Song</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>PFI ESV Songs 8, Track 2</i></span></p> <p>Refrain:          WoGoLOA means “Worship God and love one another,”          WoGoLOA means “Worship God and love one another.”</p> <p>WoGo means “Worship God.”          Sound off, 1,2,3,          Joyfully take part,          Listen to others,          Obey your teachers. (<i>Refrain</i>)</p> <p>LOA means “Love One Another.”          Sound off, 1,2,3,          Be kind,          Be encouraging,          Help others, help others. (<i>Refrain twice</i>)</p>

**1. GETTING STARTED, continued**

<b>Opening Prayer</b>	"Let's ask God to help us obey these rules, and to help us worship Him and love one another as we learn more about Him today. Let's pray." <i>Pray.</i>
<b>Big Question Under Investigation:</b>  <b>Big Question 8 and Songs</b>	<p>"Now it's time to turn to today's <b>Big Question Under Investigation</b>.</p> <p>It's: <b>What Is God's Love for His People Like?</b></p> <p>God knew and loved His people even before the world began, even though He knew they were sinners who would rebel against Him. He always planned to care for them and to save them from their sins through Jesus. He always planned to work in their hearts by His Holy Spirit so they would love Him and want to live for Him. He always planned to bring them home to live with Him in heaven forever.</p> <p>So the answer to our Big Question, '<b>What Is God's Love for His People Like?</b> is: <b>It's More than They Could Ever Deserve!</b></p> <p>"Let's sing our Big Question Song(s): <span style="float: right;"><i>choose one or both</i></span></p> <p><b>Big Q &amp; A 8 Song</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>PFI ESV Songs 8, Track 3</i></span>  <i>(adapted version of "Baa. Baa. Black Sheep")</i>  What is God's love for His people like?  More than they could ever deserve!  What is God's love for His people like?  What is God's love for His people like?  What is God's love for His people like?  What is God's love for His people like?  More than they could ever deserve!</p> <p><b>Big Question 8 Song</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>PFI ESV Songs 8, Track 4</i></span>  <b>What Is God's Love for His People Like?</b>  What is God's love for His people like?  What is God's love for His people like?  What is God's love for His people like?  It's more than they could ever deserve.</p> <p>Verse 1  God loves His people from all places,  from all times, with ev'ry kind of faces.  God loves His people from ev'ry nation,  And He loves them all through Jesus Christ</p> <p><i>Refrain</i>  God's love for His people is more than they could ever deserve.  God's love for His people is more than they could ever deserve.</p> <p>Verse 2  God loved His people before the beginning,  Even before they were repenting and believing,  God loved His people from ev'ry nation,  And He loved them all through Jesus Christ. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>Verse 3  God loved His people, He sent Jesus,  To save them, so forever they would be His,  God loves His people from ev'ry nation,  And He always will through Jesus Christ. <i>Refrain</i></p>

**1. GETTING STARTED, continued****Unit 8  
Bible Verse**

*You might also enjoy listening to:  
The Steadfast Love of the LORD:  
Lamentations 3:22,23,  
ESV  
PFI ESV Songs 8,  
Track 6*

"How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

1 Chronicles 16:34 tells us: "Give thanks to the LORD for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever."

**Big Question 8 Bible Verse Song  
Oh, Give Thanks: 1 Chronicles 16:34**

*PFI ESV Songs 8, Track 5*

Oh, give thanks to the LORD,  
Oh, give thanks.  
Oh, give thanks to the LORD,  
Oh, give thanks.  
For He is good,  
And His steadfast love endures forever. (Repeat)

Forever and ever and ever and ever,  
Forever and ever and ever and ever.  
First Chronicles Sixteen, thirty-four.

God's people are sinners. Their love for God is never the same. They do not seek Him or obey Him as they should. Yet, the LORD's love for them is always steadfast. It never changes. That's because it's based on Jesus' perfect life and love, not on sinful life and unsteady love. God's people rejoice in how good God is to them! They give thanks to Him for His always faithful love. It will never, ever end. It truly is more than they could ever deserve.

**2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story)****Bible Truth 2**

"It's time for us to dig down deeper for answers to our Big Question. We're learning **SIX** Bible Truths that all tell us something about God's love for His people. We have learned one already. Can you remember what it is? (God Blesses All People with Many Good Gifts.)

The Bible Truth we are going to be thinking about today is:  
**God Loved His People Before They Loved Him.**

Even before God created the world, He loved His people. Even back then, He knew all about them. He knew that they would be sinners like everyone else. He knew they would all rebel against Him and deserve His punishment for their sins.

Yet even though He knew all this about them before even a single one of them was born, He loved them deeply and wanted them to be His people. He chose to set His love upon them in a special way. He chose to send His Son, Jesus, to pay for their sins. He chose that by the Holy Spirit, He would give them faith in Jesus, and through that faith, He would forgive their sins. He would give them each a new heart to love and obey Him. They would be His special people--a countless number from every language and people on earth, who would live to enjoy Him and praise His amazing love forever.

We can know God's love and be His dearly loved people, too, when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

**2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued**

<p><b>Bible Truth 2 Hymn</b></p>	<p>“Long ago, a man named Frederick Whitfield was thinking about this Bible truth, too. He wrote the words to a hymn called “Oh, How I Love Jesus” We’re going to learn a verse from it.</p> <p><b>Oh, How I Love Jesus</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>PFI ESV Songs 8, Track 9</i></span></p> <p><b>Verse 1</b>  There is a name I love to hear,  I love to sing its worth;  It sounds as music in my ear,  The sweetest name on earth.</p> <p>Oh, how I love Jesus,  Oh, how I love Jesus,  Oh, how I love Jesus,  Because He first loved me.</p> <p>Through Jesus, God loved His people before they loved Him. He loved them while they were still sinners. He loved them even before the creation of the world. This makes God’s people so happy! They know that their sinful hearts would never choose God if He had loved them and chose them first. They know without God choosing to send Jesus to save them from their sins, they would never ever know God. This makes the name of Jesus the sweetest name on earth.</p>
<p><b>Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse and Song</b></p>	<p>“The Bible verse we are going to be digging down into for this Bible Truth is:</p> <p><b>Ephesians 1:4-6</b>  “For He chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us to be adopted through Jesus Christ for Himself, according to His favor and will, to the praise of His glorious grace that He favored us with in the Beloved.”</p> <p>God loved His people long before they loved Him. He loved them and chose to adopt them as His people, even before He created (founded) the world. Why did He do this? Because it pleased Him to do it! It would show how wonderful He is and how great the good gifts He gives His people because of Jesus. We think of what He’s done and we praise Him for being so good to people like us. People who are sinners, but through Jesus, are made to be holy--without sin and without blame in His sight.</p> <p>We’ve said our Bible verse, now let’s sing it!</p> <p><b>For He Chose Us</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>PFI ESV Songs 8, Track 10</i></span></p> <p>For He chose us in Him before the foundation,  Before the foundation of the world,  To be holy and blameless in his sight,  Yes, he chose us before the foundation of the world.  In love he predestined us to be adopted for Himself,  Through Jesus Christ,  According to His will and favor,  Yes, In love He predestined us.  Ephesians One, four and five.</p>

**2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued****LESSON 1 STORY****Old Testament Story:****The Case of the Long-Lived, Lavish Love**

*Ephesians 1;  
Romans 8; Genesis;  
Exodus;  
1 Kings/ 1 Chronicles;  
2 Kings/2 Chronicles;  
Luke; Acts;  
Revelation 7:9*

"Now it's time for today's story called: **The Case of the Long-Lived Lavish Love.**

**As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

- 1. Whose love was so long-lived? Who did he love?**
- 2. When did his love for them begin? What was so lavish about it?** *(If desired, write these questions on a sheet of paper to refer to when the story is finished.)*

*Read story.*

*After reading story, ask for the children's answers to the questions.*

- 1. Whose love was so long-lived? Who did he love?** The LORD. He loved all of His people.
- 2. When did his love for them begin? What was so lavish about it?** It began before the creation of the world. He loved them, even though they were sinners who would rebel against Him. He loved them by giving His beloved Son to suffer and die for their sins.

*Close in prayer. (prayer suggestions included at end of story)*

**LESSON 2 STORY****Story of the Saints:****The Case of the Doctor Who Needed Patience**

"Now it's time for today's story called: **The Case of the Doctor Who Needed Patience.**

**As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

- 1. Who was the doctor who needed patience? Who needed to be patient with him? How?**
- 2. What did the Lord do to bring the change that was so patiently waited for?** *(If desired, write these questions on a sheet of paper to refer to when the story is finished.)*

*Read story.*

*After reading story, ask for the children's answers to the questions.*

- 1. Who was the doctor who needed patience? Who needed to be patient with him? How?** Dr. William Mackay. His mother. She needed to patiently wait for the Lord to answer her prayers and hopes that her son would be saved.
- 2. What did the Lord do to bring the change that was so patiently waited for?** He used the very Bible that she had him take with him to school.

*Close in prayer. (prayer suggestions included at end of story)*

**2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued****LESSON 3****New Testament Story:**

"Now it's time for today's story called: **The Case of the Chosen Who Needed Courage.**

**The Case of the Chosen Who Needed Courage**  
Acts 12:20-35

**As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

- 1. Who were the chosen? Who had chosen them and when?**
- 2. What did He chose them to be and to do? How did this give them courage?**

*(If desired, write these questions on a sheet of paper to refer to when the story is finished.)*

*Read story.*

*After reading story, ask for the children's answers to the questions.*

**1. Who were the chosen? Who had chosen them, to be what? When did He chose them?** The believers in Jesus (in general), but the believers in Ephesus (in this story). The Lord chose them to be His dear, adopted people, saved through Jesus. He did this before He even created the world.

**2. Why did they need courage? What did they take courage from?** Others in Ephesus were persecuting them for being Christians. From knowing that God had chosen them and made them His dear, adopted people. He would take care of them in this life and one day, take them to be with Him forever in heaven.

*Close in prayer. (prayer suggestions included at end of story)*

**3. TAKING ACTION: Response Activities** *(choose from among these activities)***Response Activities**

- **ACTS Prayer Activity:** Add your own prayer requests to the ACTS prayer
- **Sneaky Snack:** Story-related snack
- **Bible Truth Review Activity:** Game with questions related to the Bible Truth
- **Bible Truth Hymn:** Music activities to learn a portion of a Bible Truth-related hymn
- **Bible Verse Review Activity:** Game with questions related to Bible Truth Bible verse
- **Bible Verse Song:** Music activities to learn the Bible Verse song
- **Story Review Activity:** Game with questions related to the Bible Truth and Case
- **Case RePlay, Jr. and Sr.:** Two drama activities that review the story: one for younger children, one for older children.
- **Craft:** Story-related craft
- **VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person):** Game and a coloring activity to help children learn about people in your church and how to pray for them.

*(VIP resources: found online or at back of this book)*

**4. TAKING IT TO OTHERS** *Optional presentations for the last few minutes of class***Presenting to Other Children**

*If you split the children into different response activities, you can gather the children together again and have each small group make presentations to show the other children what they learned. Presentation ideas are included in the resources for each activity.*

**Presenting to Parents**

*If you keep your children together for response activities, you can have them make a presentation of something they have learned to their parents when they come to pick them up from class. Presentation ideas are included in the resources for each activity.*

**5. TAKING IT HOME** *(Take Home Sheet)***PFI Pronto**

*Give out the PFI Pronto for the case story as well as any other materials as the children are dismissed.*